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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/768,085	02/02/2004	Toshimichi Minowa	056203.44307C3	6560
23911	7590	02/24/2006		
CROWELL & MORING LLP			EXAMINER	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP			TRAN, DALENA	
P.O. BOX 14300				
WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3661	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/768,085	MINOWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dalena Tran	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 39,41,43 and 45 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 39,41,43 and 45 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/7/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 12/1/05. As per request, claims 39, 41, 43, and 45 have been amended. Claims 40, 42, and 44 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 39, 41, 43, and 45 are pending.

The prior art submitted on 2/7/06 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 41, and 45, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akishino et al. (5088043).

As per claim 41, Akishino et al. disclose a method of controlling a vehicle having a first running mode wherein an engine torque of the vehicle is controlled according to a first target value determined from an accelerator pedal position (see columns 4-5, lines 53-22) and a second running mode wherein the engine torque of the vehicle is controlled according to a second target value determined from at least one of a target vehicle speed and a headway distance of vehicle (see the abstract; column 2, lines 24-68; columns 6-7, lines 20-3; column 9, lines 28-42; columns 11-12, lines 41-44; column 14, lines 13-57; and columns 16-17, lines 45-23), comprising: when second running mode is changed to first running mode, changing the target value of the engine torque instantaneously from the second target value to the first target value, wherein a

time constant of 200 seconds or less is set for transition from second running mode to first running mode (see columns 18-19, lines 35-5; columns 20-21, lines 37-8; and columns 22-23, lines 54-17).

Claim 45, is an apparatus claims corresponding to method claim 41 above. Therefore, it is rejected for the same rationales set forth as above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 39, and 43, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Togai et al. (5069181) in view of Shimada et al. (5233530).

As per claim 39, Togai et al. disclose a method of controlling a vehicle having a first running mode wherein a driving shaft torque of the vehicle is controlled according to a first target value determined from an accelerator pedal position (see the abstract; column 2, lines 11-50; column 4, lines 20-61; and columns 6-7, lines 55-55). Togai et al. do not disclose a second running mode. However, Shimada et al. disclose a second running mode wherein the driving shaft torque is controlled according to a second target value determined from at least one of a target vehicle speed and a headway distance of vehicle (see columns 14-16, lines 57-4), comprising: when second running mode is changed to first running mode, changing the target value of the driving shaft torque instantaneously from the second target value to the first target value, wherein a time constant of 200 seconds or less is set for transition from second running

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mode to first running mode (see columns 17-18, lines 20-68). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Togai et al. by combining a second running mode for controlling vehicle stability and drivability of the vehicle.

Claim 43, is an apparatus claims corresponding to method claim 40 above. Therefore, it is rejected for the same rationales set forth as above.

Remarks

6. Applicant's amendment filed on 12/1/05 has been fully considered. The allowance of claims 39, 41, 43, and 45 in the last office action is withdrawn. Upon updated search, the new ground of rejection has been set forth as above.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM-4:00 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner
Dalena Tran


February 20, 2006